

NCT Blazes The Trail In Performance And Investments As It Performs Beyond Expectations

With the Ngqura Container Terminal having been in operation for less than a decade, this facility has surpassed all expectations in performance and has justified all infrastructural and equipment investments made since its inception in 2009, despite sentiments that it would become a white elephant when a decision was taken at the turn of the century to make the investment.

Being a world class, deep water transshipment hub offering import and export services to the east and west coast of Africa as well South America and Asia, it was not long before NCT was recognised as the fastest growing port in South Africa by Drewry, an international consulting company in the maritime sector.

With increased global demand for manganese as well as the terminal's superior operational performance, the terminal welcomed the move to relocate the manganese facility from Port Elizabeth Multi-Purpose Terminal to NCT as part of a project known as the Ngqura Manganese Expansion Project, which is currently underway and is an R8 billion capital investment in infrastructure. This is yet more evidence that illustrates how this terminal has continued to exceed all expectations by industry and detractors alike.

As part of Transnet's Market Demand Strategy, a strategy that preceded the company's current strategy known as Transnet 4.0, the success of the terminal also saw an investment in excess of R1 billion in terminal handling equipment like 48 haulers and trailers, 18 Rubber-Tyred Gantries and 4 Ship-To-Shores Cranes as further evidence of anticipated growth of the business. With NCT being South Africa's eighth commercial port, it has seen investments in excess of R10 billion since inception.



Because the Eastern Cape is a province that is largely dominated by automotive industries and lacks the diversification that is enjoyed by other South African provinces, the investment into NCT was a welcome economic intervention. NCT employs a few hundred employees **[figure TBC from HR]** with the figure expected to rise with the expansion project currently underway. The growth of the terminal has also seen the skilling and reskilling of NCT's human resources in line with global standards of the customers that they facility services.

The construction of NCT did not only benefit locals in terms of employment but it also benefitted them regarding the procurement of products and services for the terminal as local service providers, especially in the form of women and the youth. This means that a certain percentage of the region's procurement spend is targeted to these designated groups.

With a total land area of 1 254 hectares, NCT was designed initially to offer seven berths, four of them for the container business and the other three for dry, liquid and break-bulk. Although the facility was officially opened on 16 March 2012, the MSC Catania was the first vessel to berth at NCT, with a consignment of 275 containers being off-loaded and this was on 4 October 2009.